

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 441

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the University of Tennessee Lady Vols basketball team on winning the 2013 Southeastern Conference regular season championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with their storied history of basketball excellence, the University of Tennessee Lady Vols clinched the Southeastern Conference (SEC) 2012-2013 regular season championship, a fitting and well-deserved accomplishment for this exceptional group of female athletes; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 2012, fellow coaches gave little regard to the Lady Vols for the upcoming season that would mark the team's transition to the leadership of head coach Holly Warlick, and the Lady Vols were predicted to finish fifth in the conference; and

WHEREAS, however, the Lady Vols recorded a 14-2 season of conference play, and their overall record on the season was 25-6; and

WHEREAS, in the SEC tournament, the Lady Vols were victorious over Florida, 82-73, in the first round before falling to Texas A&M in the subsequent round, a loss which would not dampen the excitement of receiving the SEC Championship; and

WHEREAS, the achievements of an outstanding season on the hardwood yielded a No. 2 seed for the Lady Vols as they entered NCAA tournament play. They promptly collected double-digit wins over three formidable opponents in first-round opponent Oral Roberts, second-round opponent Creighton, and Sweet Sixteen opponent Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, entering the Elite Eight round matched against Louisville, each Lady Vol who took the court played with precision and fervor, but they were unable to best the Cardinals, who recorded the victory at 86-78 and closed the book on Tennessee's season; and

WHEREAS, in retrospect, the season was marvelous and the performance of the Lady Vols throughout the 2012-2013 season bodes exceedingly well for the future of players and coaching staff of this legendary basketball program; and

WHEREAS, head coach Holly Warlick was chosen as the SEC Coach of the Year and was the recipient of the highly coveted Spalding Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year award, an extremely prestigious award of which she is wholly deserving; and

WHEREAS, Coach Warlick and her assistants, Kyra Elzy, Jolette Law, and Dean Lockwood, have expertly groomed and guided this year's Lady Vols team for athletic success and excellence in all their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, the team members are of the 2012-2013 Lady Vols basketball team are: seniors Kamiko Williams and Taber Spani; junior Meighan Simmons; sophomores Cierra Burdick, Isabelle Harrison, Ariel Massengale, and Jasmine Phillips; and freshmen Andraya Carter, Bashaara Graves, Jasmine Jones, and Nia Moore; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible championship season, the members of the Lady Vols basketball team have etched their names onto the hearts of Tennessee Vol fans within and beyond the borders of this great State, and the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of each coach and player is fully deserving of the recognition and gratitude of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate the University of Tennessee Lady Vols on becoming the regular season Southeastern Conference 2013 Champions, commend each player and coach for their myriad contributions to a highly successful season, and extend our best wishes for success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we congratulate head coach Holly Warlick on her selection as the recipient of the Spalding Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year and on being named the Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year awards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.